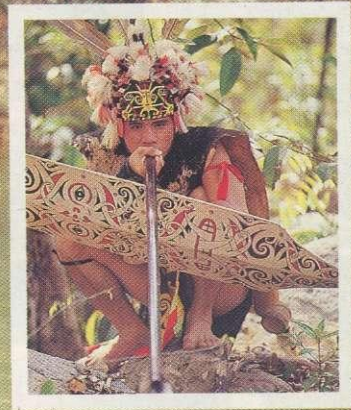


# SARAWAK

MAP AND GUIDE

Edition 1991



YOUR FREE COPY



# MALAYSIA



MINISTRY OF CULTURE, ARTS AND TOURISM



# HOW TO GET THERE

## By Air

To get to Sarawak, travellers have to use the national carrier Malaysia Airlines (MAS) which conducts daily direct flights from Singapore, Kuala Lumpur, Johor Baru and Kota Kinabalu to Kuching and Miri.

Though Brunei is accessible by road, the Royal Brunei also flies into Kuching three times a week while travellers in Pontianak (also accessible by road across the Kalimantan Indonesia-Sarawak border) can make use of Merpati Airlines which drops in once a week on Friday. The airport service charge for domestic flights is M\$3, the charge from Singapore and Brunei is M\$5, while those from Pontianak is M\$15. There are two



International airports in Kuching and Miri. There are also airports and airstrips at Sibü, Bintulu, Kapit, Belaga, Marudi, Limbang, Lawas, Bario, Long Seridan, Ba Kelalan, Long Semado and Long Lellang covered by MAS Fokker Friendship services or MAS rural air service Twin Otters.

Helicopters and fixed-winged airplanes can also be chartered. Arrangements can be made with Hornbill Skyways at Tel: 082-455737 (Kuching) or 085-37355 (Miri). Chartered planes can also be booked in Miri through Boskym, Tel: 085-34242.

## Airline Companies And General Service Agents In Sarawak

### Malaysia Airlines (MAS)

Kuching:	Tel: 082-244144
Miri:	Tel: 085-34129
Sibü:	Tel: 084-326166
Bintulu:	Tel: 086-31554

### British Airways

Kuching:	Tel: 082-242367
Miri:	Tel: 085-34008
Sibü:	Tel: 086-338884
Bintulu:	Tel: 086-31351

### Royal Brunei Airlines

Kuching:	Tel: 082-241082
Miri:	Tel: 085-413011

### Singapore Airlines

Kuching:	Tel: 082-240266
Miri:	Tel: 085-33167
Sibü:	Tel: 084-332203

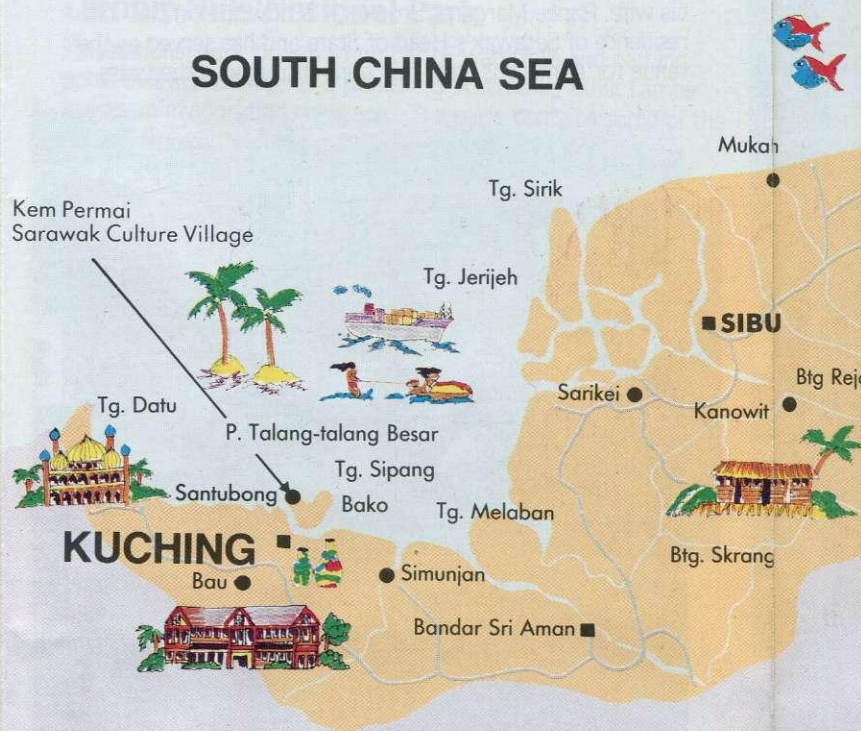
### KLM Royal Dutch Airlines

Miri:	Tel: 085-35413
-------	----------------

## TRAVELLING AROUND

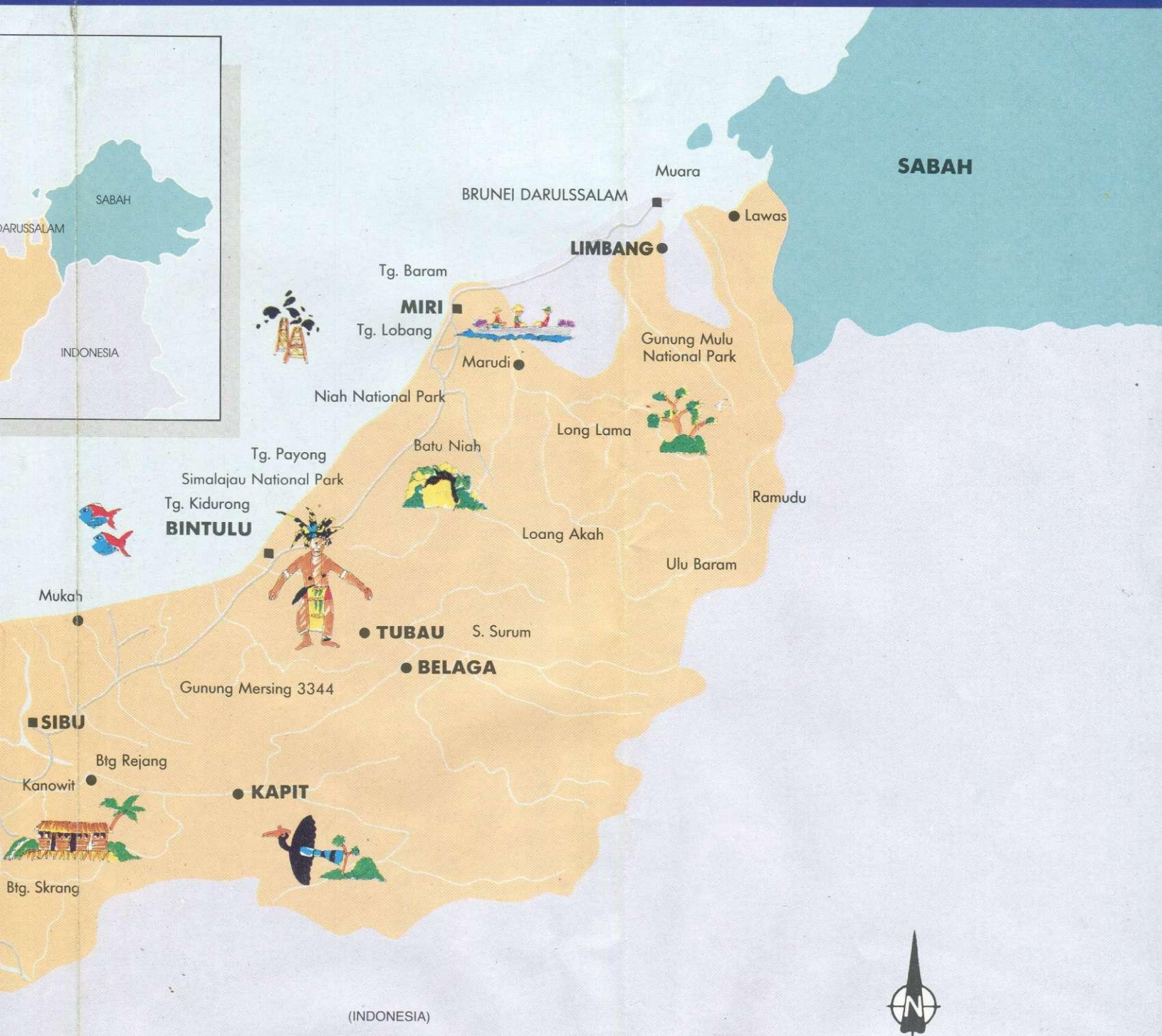
Sarawak is best known for its intricate water-ways as the state is a land of many rivers. There are express boat services at all the main towns – Kuching, Sibü, Miri, Marudi, Limbang, Kapit and Belaga. Boat trips are available to most of the smaller towns.

# SARAWAK





# R A W A K





## TRAVELLING AROUND

Sarawak is best known for its intricate water-ways as the state is a land of many rivers. There are express boat services at all the main towns – Kuching, Sibu, Miri, Marudi, Limbang, Kapit and Belaga. Bookings for special chartered boats can be made through the various travel agencies.

Major town centres are served by surfaced roads. For those who wish to explore Sarawak by public transport, there are many bus companies which operate regular services within the town centres and certain rural areas.

## ACCOMMODATION

Finding a place to stay in the major towns of Sarawak should not be a problem. There are well over 50 hotels in this tropical paradise, catering to every taste and budget.

### SARAWAK KUCHING

NAME/ADDRESS	TELEPHONE	NO. OF ROOMS/RATES
Aurora Hotel Jalan McDougall P.O. Box 260, 93704 Kuching	082-240281-6	84 rooms From M\$95 to M\$175.00
Borneo Hotel 30C-F Tabuan Road 93100 Kuching.	082-241267 241121 24122	37 rooms From M\$70.00 to M\$140.00
City Inn Lot 275-276 Abell Road P.O. Box 1947, 93738 Kuching	082-414866-6	35 rooms From M\$49.00 to M\$66.00
Ferritel Kuching Bypass Pending, 93300 Kuching	082-484799	36 rooms From M\$60.00 to M\$105.00
Holiday Inn Kuching Jalan Tunku Abdul Rahman P.O. Box 2362, 93100 Kuching	082-423111	320 rooms From M\$167 to M\$1000.00
Liwah Hotel Lot 187, Jalan Song Thien Cheok P.O. Box 1041 93720 Kuching	082-429222 (6 lines)	90 rooms From M\$68 to M\$225.00
Mayfair Hotel 45-47 Jalan Palm P.O. Box 3205 93760 Kuching	082-421486 419288	42 rooms From M\$45.70 to M\$150.00
Holiday Inn Damai Beach Resort P.O. Box 2870, 93756 Kuching	082-423142 411777	202 rooms From M\$195.00 to M\$1,000
Kuching Hilton Jalan Tunku Abdul Rahman 93100 Kuching	082-248200/1	322 rooms From M\$170 to M\$1250

### SIBU

Garden Hotel No. 1, Hua Ping Road 96000 Sibu	084-317888	40 rooms From M\$57.50 to M\$96.60
Hotel-Zuhra 103, Jalan Kampung Nyabor P.O. Box 414, 96007 Sibu	084-310711/17	34 rooms From M\$55.00 to M\$85.00
Li Hua Hotel Long Bridge Commercial Centre P.O. Box 798, 96008 Sibu	084-324000	77 rooms From M\$60.00 to M\$180.00
Premier Hotel Jalan Kampong Nyabor P.O. Box 1064, 96008 Sibu	084-323222	120 rooms From M\$74.00 to M\$200.00

### NAME/ADDRESS

### TELEPHONE

### NO. OF ROOMS/RATE

#### MIRI

Apollo Hotel 4, Jalan South Yu Seng P.O. Box 162, 98007 Miri	085-33077 33749 33418	19 rooms From M\$80.00 to M\$103.00
Gloria Hotel 27, Jalan Brooke, P.O. Box 1283, 98008 Miri	085-416699	42 rooms From M\$82.00 to M\$120.00
Million Inn 6 Jalan South Yu Seng P.O. Box 237, 98007 Miri.	085-32066 34344	31 rooms From M\$75.00 to M\$100.00
Park Hotel Kingsway, P.O. Box 241 98007 Miri	085-414555	95 rooms From M\$88.00 to M\$250.00
Plaza Regency 47 Brooke Road 98000 Miri	085-413113 413163	50 rooms From M\$75.90 to M\$158.13

#### SRI AMAN

Alisan Hotel 4 Jalan Council 95000 Sri Aman	083-322578/9	18 rooms From M\$35.70 to M\$50.00
Hoover Hotel Tiong Hua Building 139 Club Road P.O. Box 87, 95007 Sri Aman	083-321985-8	46 rooms From M\$25.70 to M\$72.60

#### LIMBANG

National Inn 62A-69A Jalan Buang Siol P.O. Box 173, 98707 Limbang	085-22922/82	34 rooms From M\$67.62 to M\$92.22
Muhibbah Hotel Lot 790-792 Bank Street P.O. Box 37 98700 Limbang	085-22488 22482 22480	34 rooms From M\$44.00 to M\$100.00

#### MUKAH

Hotel King Ing No 1 & 2, Jalan Boyan 96400 Mukah	084-871400	20 rooms From M\$35.00 to M\$49.00
--	------------	---------------------------------------

#### BAKO

Bako National Park Rest House & Bungalow	084-246477	2 bungalows at M\$22.00 per bungalow per night 4 hostel at M\$1.10 per person
---	------------	--

#### MARUDI (BARAM)

Hotel Zola Lot 14-15, Queen's Square P.O. Box 271, 98058 Marudi	085-55991 085-55025	25 rooms From M\$60.00 to M\$84.00
Maryland Hotel Kampung Dagang P.O. Box 20, 98050 Marudi	085-55106 085-55107 085-55089	28 rooms From M\$30.00 to M\$100.00

#### BINTULU

Plaza Hotel 116 Taman Sri Dayang Jalan Abang Dalau P.O. Box 676 97008 Bintulu	086-35111	161 rooms From M\$85.00 to M\$478.00
Royal Hotel 10-12 Pedada Street P.O. Box 321, 97008 Bintulu	086-32166 086-32167 086-32158	36 rooms From M\$100.00 to M\$115.00
Li Hua Hotel 2 1/2 Miles Miri P.O. Box 191 97007 Bintulu	086-35000	90 rooms From M\$100.00 to M\$300.00



# EATING OUT

As with the rest of Malaysia, eating out in Sarawak opens oneself to a never-unending choice of culinary treats.

Western, Malay, North and South Indian, Chinese, Nonya, Japanese, even Filipino cuisine are easily sought. The visitor with an adventurous palate will be rewarded with sumptuous meals and snacks. In one's selection of restaurants or open-air stalls, the best bet would be with the eating place with the most local customers! Consult the local newspapers for a list of dining places.



# SHOPPING



There are several modern shopping facilities in Sarawak. In Kuching, Wisma Saberka at Jalan Green, Sarawak Plaza at Jalan Tunku Abdul Rahman, Wisma Hopoh at Jalan P. Ramlee, Wisma Phoenix at Jalan Song Thian Cheok, and Kuching Plaza at Jalan McDougall offer everything an itinerant shopper would need.

Travel agencies and tour operators should be able to advise on the appropriate places for your shopping in the other towns.

# HANDICRAFTS AND ANTIQUES

Sarawak can boast of a vast array of traditional handicrafts. Native-made wood-carvings, beadworks, fabric-weaving and bamboo & rattan basket are of intricate designs and fine craftsmanship, often vibrant with a multitude of colours. Each ethnic group adopts a unique style and quality in manufacturing its handicrafts. Check out pua kumbu (handwoven cloth by the Ibans), 'kain berturus' and 'kain songket' (handwoven cloth often inlaid with gold, by the Malays), Melanau Terindak hats, Penan ajat baskets and sleeping mats, Bidayuh tambok baskets, and Kenyah Sa'ong sunhats. Indigenous motifs are also found in the famous Sarawakian pottery.



Kuching is excellent for buying tribal artefacts and jewellery with the best selections to be found in antique and curio shops along Main Bazaar, Wayang Street and Temple Street. Prices can be quite high, and it's best to bargain.

A visit to the Sunday Open Market situated at Jalan Satok is highly recommended. An interesting variety of items are on sale here, and one may find antiques alongside jungle produce and household wares.

## FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

### TDC MALAYSIA HEAD OFFICE

24-27 Floor Menara Dato Onn,  
Putra World Trade Centre, 45 Jalan Tun Ismail,  
50480 Kuala Lumpur.  
Tel: 03-2935188  
Telex: MA 30093 MTDC KL  
Telefax: 03-2935884

### NATIONAL PARKS & WILDLIFE

1st Floor, Wisma Sumber Alam,  
93050 Kuching Sarawak.  
Tel: 082-442180/201

### TDC SARAWAK

2nd Floor, AIA Building, Jalan Song Thian Cheok,  
93100 Kuching. Tel: 082-246575, 246775.  
Telex: 70589 TDC KCH Telefax: 085-246442.

### SARAWAK TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE

Main Bazaar,  
93400 Kuching.  
Tel: 082-410944, 410942.

Note: All information contained herein is current at time of printing. Whilst every care is taken in the preparation of this brochure, the Tourist Development Corporation of Malaysia cannot be held responsible for any inaccuracy, omission or alteration that may occur.

Published by: Tourist Development Corporation of Malaysia  
Ministry of Culture and Tourism

Designed by: Reka Cipta Bersekutu

Printed by: Utusan Printcorp Sdn. Bhd., Kuala Lumpur Dec. 1992.

**TRAFFICKING IN ILLEGAL DRUGS  
CARRIES THE DEATH PENALTY**



# KUCHING

- EXHIBITION CENTRE 1
- LAPAU 2
- BANGUNAN TUANKU ABDUL RAHMAN. 3
- ISTANA 4
- FORT MARGHERITA 5
- HOLIDAY INN 6
- SARAWAK PLAZA 7
- SARAWAK TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE/ 8
- SARAWAK TOURIST ASSOCIATION 9
- SQUARE TOWER 10
- O.U.B. 11
- COURT HOUSE 12
- ROUND TOWER 13
- HONGKONG & SHANGHAI BANKING CORP. 14
- GENERAL POST OFFICE 15
- ANGLICAN CHURCH 16
- KUCHING PLAZA 17
- AURORA HOTEL 18
- WAR MEMORIAL 19
- PEJABAT PENERANGAN 20
- DAY MARKET 21
- STATE MOSQUE 22
- ARIF HOTEL 23
- KUCHING MUNICIPAL COUNCIL LIBRARY 24
- MAJLIS ISLAM SARAWAK 25
- WISMA SATOK/ 26
- NATIONAL PARK AND WILD LIFE OFFICE 27
- BANK NEGARA 28
- ISLAMIC COURT 29
- RTM 30
- DEWAN PEMBANGUNAN TAMAN ABDUL RAZAK 31
- (SARAWAK MUSEUM NEW WING) 32
- SARAWAK MUSEUM AQUARIUM 33
- PALM HOTEL 34
- MAYFAIR HOTEL 35
- ST. JOSEPH'S SCHOOL 36
- TELECOMMUNICATION EXCHANGE 37
- ST. TERESA'S SCHOOL 38
- ST. JOSEPH CATHEDRAL (ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH) 39
- HEROES GRAVES 40
- CIVIC CENTRE 41
- ISTANA TETAMU 42
- RESERVOIR PARK 43
- FATA HOTEL 44
- BORNEO HOTEL 45
- METROPOLE INN 46
- TUA PEK KONG TEMPLE 47
- KUCHING HILTON 48
- TAMAN SRI SARAWAK MALL 49
- WISMAL BUKIT MATA KUCHING/ 50
- STANDARD & CHARTERED BANK 51
- PERMATA FOOD CENTRE 52
- TDC OFFICE 53
- MAS OFFICE 54
- LONGHOUSE HOTEL 55
- HOTEL LIWAH 56
- SRI SEENI VASAKA PERUMAL TEMPLE 57
- WISMA SEBERKAS 58
- BANGUNAN SULTAN ISKANDAR/ 59
- IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT (PASSPORT SECTION) 60
- FERRITEL
- TANAH PUTEH PORT
- TAN SRI SIM KHENG HONG PORT
- EXPRESS ASSOCIATION WHARF







SUNGAI

SARAWAK

JLN. ISTANA

JLN. CROCKER

JLN. DAYA

JLN. KILANG

JLN. BERLIAN

JLN. TENAGA

JLN. KEMAJUAN

KERLING

JLN. MERSAWA

JLN. MERSAWA

JLN. MERBAU

JLN. PENDING

S. TABUAN

JLN. PETANAK

JLN. WEE KHENG CHIANG

JLN. DATUK WILLIAM TAN

JLN. SEKAMA

JLN. FOCHOH LON

JLN. SG. APONG

JLN. MENDU

JLN. SEMPANG TIGA

KUCHING BYPASS

JLN. CENTRAL

ELLIS ROAD

JLN. BUDAYA

CROOKSHAW ROAD

JLN. BATU

LINTANG

ROCK ROAD

EDGEWAY

JLN. TAN SRI ONG KEE HUI

JLN. TUN ABANG HJ. OPENG

JLN. BARUDIN

JLN. PALM

JLN. PEARSES

JLN. TABUAN

JLN. BAN HOCK  
DESHON

JLN. RAHMAN  
PADUNGAN

JLN. TUANKU ABDUL

JLN. BAZAAR

JLN. MC DOUGALL

JLN. MESJID

JLN. P. RAMLEE

JLN. HAJI YAHYA



# PLACES OF INTEREST

## Sarawak Museum

Acknowledged as one of the finest in Asia, the Sarawak Museum has an excellent collection of Borneon ethnological and archaeological artefacts.

Completed in 1891, the museum's facade has its origins in France (Normandy) but the interior is dedicated to the heritage and cultures of Borneo.

Visitors are welcomed to both the old and new extensions of the museum complex for an insight of the state in the past.



## Astana

Set among the rolling lawns on the northern bank of the Sarawak river, the majestic palace was built in 1870 by Rajah Charles Brooke, the second white Rajah, as a bridal gift for his wife, Raneë Margaret Brooke. It is now the official residence of Sarawak's Head of State and has served as the venue for numerous state functions throughout the years.



## Court House

The Court House is surely one of the most magnificent buildings in Sarawak. The imposing facade has intricate local art patterns incorporated in its door and window grilles and roof panels.

## Fort Margherita

Built in 1878, the fort commands a breathtaking and strategic position along the Sarawak river. Named after Raneë Margaret, it was completed the year after, just in time to defend Kuching against pirate attacks from the river. The fort has since been renovated and now serves as a Police museum.



## Round Tower

This structure was built in 1886 but its origin is cloaked in mystery as to its purpose. It is believed that the Rajah intended it to be another fort in town, though this has not been firmly established.



## Sarawak State Mosque

Situated at the heart of Kuching town, this magnificent structure complete with a gilt dome is dedicated to the purity of Islam. It was built in 1968, on the very site of an old wooden mosque built in 1852.



## The Pavilion

Situated opposite the General Post office, the Pavilion was the first building in the town, and probably the state, to be



## Court House

The Court House is surely one of the most magnificent buildings in Sarawak. The imposing facade has intricate local art patterns incorporated in its door and window grilles and roof panels.



Completed in 1874, it was the seat of government during the reign of the white Rajahs. The beautiful clock tower was added to the architecture in 1883, with the obelisk memorial to Rajah Charles Brooke officially commissioned in 1924.



## General Post Office

The Kuching General Post Office is gazetted as being the only building of its kind in this part of the world to employ Corinthian columns in its facade.



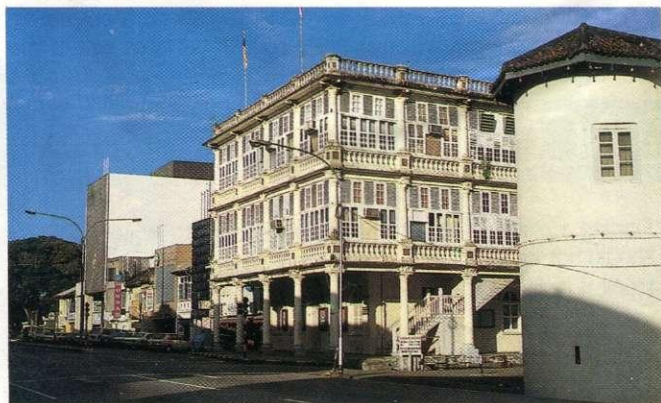
## Tua Pek Kong Temple

Located at Jalan Tunku Abdul Rahman, the century-old Chinese temple is the oldest of its kind in Kuching. It is particularly famous for its Wang Kang celebration to commemorate the spirit of the dead. The temple was supposed to have been built as early as 1843 but official records only recognised its existence in 1876 when temple devotees in the community made various repairs and renovations to it.



## The Pavilion

Situated opposite the General Post office, the Pavilion was the first building in the town, and probably the state, to be exclusively constructed of reinforced concrete frames. Presently it houses the Government offices.



## Sarawak Cultural Village "THE LIVING MUSEUM"

Set within 14 acre of natural tropical forest on the foothill of the famous Santubong mountain.

The "Living Museum" houses the various ethnic groups of the state, aiming to combine the diverse cultures of Sarawak into one harmonious potpourri of cultures.



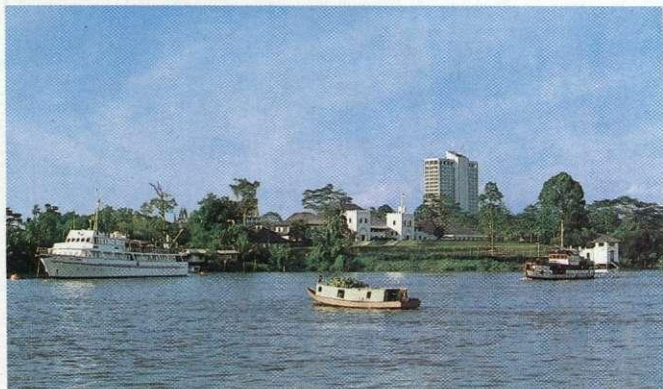
## Square Tower

Standing in the heart of town, this tower lives up to its title, resembling the late Renaissance towers in England. It was originally built as a detention centre for prisoners. During the Brooke era however, it also doubled as a fortress and, incredibly, a dance-hall.





## CRUISES AND TOURS



### Sarawak River Cruise

A three hour cruise along the Sarawak River allows you a view of the Sarawakian way of life from a different perspective. Main attractions along the cruise include Malay houses built on stilts, Nipah palm, Satok suspension bridge, and Brooke dockyard.



## BEACHES

### Camp Permai Sarawak

CAMP PERMAI SARAWAK is established with the family in mind with the theme "Discovery, Family And Growth". It seats on a lush 18 hectares of unspoiled tropical rainforest with clear running streams and trails through virgin jungle. The site is endowed with a great view of the majestic Mount Santubong and a beautiful beach on the shore of the South China Sea. It is just a stone throw away from the Sarawak Cultural Village, located only 35 km away from the city Kuching, Sarawak on the island of Borneo.

*For further information please contact:*

#### CAMP PERMAI SARAWAK

Menara SEDC, Jalan Tuanku Abdul Rahman, 83100 Kuching, Sarawak, Malaysia.  
Tel No: (082) 416777; 428601; 428602; 428615 Fax No: 082-244585; 082-243716

### Santin Resort

Approximately 28 Km from Kuching, offering unspoiled sandy beaches, fringed by enchanting casuarinas. The resort, away from the bustle of city life provides complete sports and recreational facilities for the convenience of guests.



### Gunung Mulu National Park

The Gunung Mulu Park covers an area of 200 sq. miles of primary alluvial, peat swamp mixed dipterocarp, limestone and montane forests. It contains some of the most fascinating caves in the world, among them the Deer Cave, Clearwater Cave, Wind Cave, Wonder Cave and Sarawak Chamber. The picturesque limestone pinnacles make beautiful photographs, but are not very accessible, being on the summit of a 1,600m high limestone hill. It can be reached by half a day climbing from the Melinou Gorge



### Lambir Hills National Park

This national park boasts a number of waterfalls and bathing pools that attract weekend picnickers. A climb up Bukit Lambir makes an invigorating challenge. The park contains some of the richest tropical rain forest in Sarawak.



### Wildlife

Sarawak is rich in wildlife with over 500 species of birds, including the official state crest and protected bird, the hornbill. There is also barking deer, wild pig, honey bear, gibbon, crocodiles, lizards and snakes.

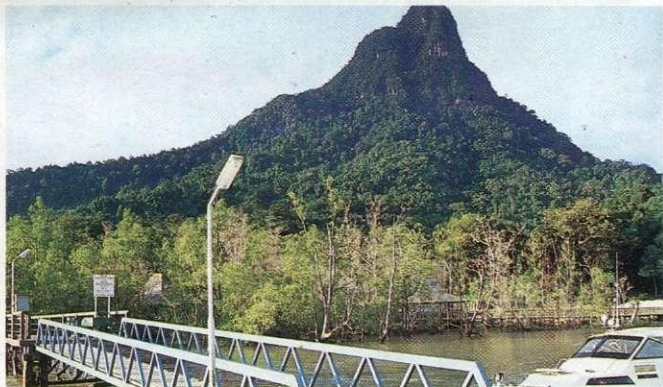
This is also the home of the orangutan, and four species of marine turtles. There is even a conservation hatchery for turtle eggs at Talang Talang Island, near Kuching.





## Santin Resort

Approximately 28 Km from Kuching, offering unspoiled sandy beaches, fringed by enchanting casuarinas. The resort, away from the bustle of city life provides complete sports and recreational facilities for the convenience of guests.



## Santubong

Situated 32km from Kuching is Santubong, the picturesque fishing village with lovely beaches, an important trading centre in the 9th and 13th centuries, is also the site of several archaeological discoveries and it can easily be reached by road and express launch. Other popular beaches include Siar Beach, a scenic location filled with crystal-clear bays and inlets, as well as beautiful rock formations. Two hours from Siar Beach is the fine stretch of white sand known as Sematan beach, a favourite haunt for weekend getaways. About 4km north of Santubong are Pantai Penyok and Pantai Bandong, two wonderful stretches of beach and wave, ideal for swimming, snorkelling and other water-sports.

## NATIONAL PARKS

### Bako National Park



This park of primary forest is about 37km from Kuching. Visitors here can see various types of flora and wildlife unique to this part of the world. Long-tailed macaques, monitor lizards, wildboars and proboscis monkeys are just a few of the animals which can be found in their natural habitat here. A well-marked trail system takes visitors through the various vegetation types in the park.

Sarawak is rich in wildlife with over 500 species of birds, including the official state crest and protected bird, the hornbill. There is also barking deer, wild pig, honey bear, gibbon, crocodiles, lizards and snakes.

This is also the home of the orangutan, and four species of marine turtles. There is even a conservation hatchery for turtle eggs at Talang Talang Island, near Kuching.



### Niah National Park

Established in 1974, the Niah National Park encompasses 3,102 hectares of limestone and forest. The park can only be reached through a succession of flight, road journey and boat ride. The journey is a good way of seeing rural Sarawak.



The Niah Caves at the park is one of the major attractions in this part of the world. Evidence exists of Homo sapiens who lived in these caves more than 40,000 years ago, with their unique culture and beliefs. Artefacts such as stone, bone and iron tools were discovered at this site and primitive drawings can still be seen in certain parts of the caves. The world's best bird's nests, a culinary delight, is still being harvested from the ceiling of the caves by men climbing up bamboo poles.

The limestone flora is of special botanic interest as it include many endemic plants.

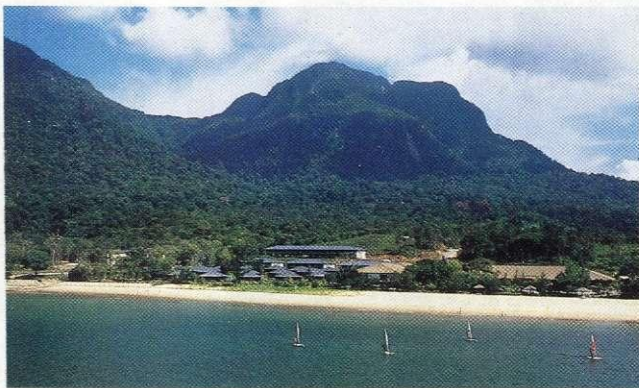




# BRIEF BACKGROUND

Sarawak is the largest of the 13 states that make up Malaysia. Covering an area of about 124,000 sq km, it stretches some 700km along the northwestern coast of Borneo (the third largest island in the world) and is flanked by Kalimantan (Indonesia) in the south, and Sabah and Brunei in the north.

Separated from Peninsula Malaysia by the South China Sea, it has a warm and equable climate, with an average annual temperature of 25.6 deg C.



Sarawak's history is reminiscent of an epic best-seller, filled with adventure, piracy, head-hunting and romance. When English adventurer James Brooke arrived in 1839, Sarawak was rebelling under the rule of the Brunei sultanate. As a reward for the role he played in quelling the rebellion, the Pengiran Mahkota of Brunei made Brooke the Rajah of Sarawak in 1841. James was succeeded by his nephew Charles Brooke in 1868, who, in turn, was succeeded by his eldest son, Charles Vyner, in 1917.

During the second World War, Sarawak was occupied by the Japanese forces, but it was subsequently ceded to Britain after the war and became a British Crown Colony. On 16th September 1963, Sarawak joined the Federation of Malaysia, and today she observes a democratic system of government.

Kuching (pop. 306,000) is the economic and political centre of the state, and was declared a city on 1st August, 1988. Miri, the largest town, lies next to the oil-rich sultanate of Brunei.

# ECONOMY



Sarawak's economy is largely dependent on its rich natural resources, particularly oil, liquefied natural gas (LNG), timber and the famous Sarawak black and white pepper. Nevertheless, it is also a state developed in agriculture, commerce, and industries. Apart from the petroleum products and timber, other

important exports are coconut oil, rubber, palm oil, cocoa beans and urea. Its tourism industry is growing and fulfilling its tremendous potential.

# PEOPLE

Sarawak, popularly known as the Land of the Hornbills, takes pride in its fascinating blend of gentle and hospitable people. It is a multi-racial society of 1.6 million, with over 23 ethnic groups whose harmonious interaction never ceases to amaze first-time visitors.



The Iban forms the largest indigenous group, comprising 29.6% of the population, while Chinese comprises 29.1%, Malay – 20.7% Bidayuh (formerly known as Land Dayaks) – 8.4%, Melanau – 5.8%. Other indigenous peoples of Sarawak fall under the orang ulu ethnic category and make up a further 5.4% of the population.

Although Islam is the official religion of the state, the people of Sarawak enjoy religious freedom. Christianity, Buddhism and Hinduism are widely practised, while some forms of paganism still exists in the rural interior.